

02-277

**From:** Ray McGrath  
**To:** Commissioner Adelstein  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 5:42 PM  
**Subject:** Broadcast Ownership Rules

Dear Mr. Adelstein:

I write to urge you NOT to relax the broadcast ownership rules.

The issue of broadcast ownership rules goes beyond mere economic matters,  
and goes to the core of the potential for political discourse within the

Republic. Monopoly ownership, be it of broadcast properties and or a combination of broadcast and print outlets within markets and across markets, will surely strangle political discussion. If anything, the present rules need to be tightened as they apply to a single market.

I urge you and your fellow commissioners to weigh the issue of broadcast ownership rules on political scales, not simply economic scales.

With best regards,

Ray McGrath  
5856 Old Canton Road  
Jackson, MS 39211  
(601) 956-4566

**From:** Russell Phaneuf  
**To:** Commissioner Adelstein  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 5:49 PM  
**Subject:** Comments to the Commissioner

Russell Phaneuf (drsnazzy@hotmail.com) writes:

Commissioner Adelstein,

Please delay a vote on media deregulation.

There are too few companies that control information in our modern society. More independent voices need to be heard, and there are too many media conglomerates.

The further deregulation of media waters down our communities and homogenizes thought and free speech in this nation. We need more debate, and the American public cannot be duped on this important issue.

Thank you.

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Server protocol: HTTP/1.1  
Remote host: 67.40.94.138  
Remote IP address: 67.40.94.138

**From:** Andy  
**To:** Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 6:04 PM  
**Subject:** Broadcast ownership rules

Dear Commissioners,

I urge you NOT to relax the broadcast ownership rules that protect American citizens from media monopolies.

These proposed changes would pave the way for giant media conglomerates to gain near-total control of radio and television news and information in communities across our nation. And many of the corporations that are now lobbying the FCC to relax these ownership rules already have a known track record in attempting to keep opposing viewpoints off the air.

The American people deserve to hear more than one point of view on important issues. Therefore, for the sake of our democracy and our freedom, I urge you to continue the broadcast ownership protections that, for decades, have helped to ensure a healthy political debate in our country.

Sincerely,

Andrew J. Mitchell  
Nashville, Tennessee 37221-2289

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**From:** Mary Soufi  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 6:48 PM  
**Subject:** Preserve Diversity and Media Ownership Limits - DO NOT Remove Remaining Regulatory Limits on Corporations

Mary Soufi  
PO Box 1045  
Vacaville, CA 95696

May 2, 2003

Chairman, Federal Communications Commission Michael Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street., SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman, Federal Communications Commission Powell:

The FCC must NOT further weaken the rules that help preserve competition and diversity among the owners of American media.

I am very well informed on this topic, having followed it keenly for most of the year.

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

The FCC is currently considering sweeping changes to broadcast ownership rules. Repeal of or further modification to these rules will likely open the door to more mergers that will continue to reduce competition and diversity in the media. If the rules are weakened further, one company in a city could control the most popular newspaper, TV station and possibly the cable system, giving it dominant influence over the content and slant of news and information. Such a move would reduce the diversity of cultural and political discussion in this country. Media ownership would be concentrated by corporate monopolies even further, and the public's ability to have open, informed discussion with diverse viewpoints would be compromised.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. While there may be indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become more limited.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the

FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

I think it is important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Sincerely,

Mary Soufi

**From:** kjfp@earthlink.net  
**To:** Commissioner Adelstein  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 7:10 PM  
**Subject:** Protect Children's Television!

FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

Dear FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein,

The FCC must consider the unique needs of children in its upcoming rulemaking on broadcast ownership rules.

Children consume almost five and a half hours of media per day. Research has shown that media, particularly television, play a unique and powerful role in children's development.

The FCC should consider how further relaxation of media ownership rules would impact children's programming. Deregulation may reduce competition, increase commercialism and result in less original programming for children.

Before making any regulatory changes to existing media ownership rules, the FCC must consider how children will be affected.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Pyne  
1728 Willard St. NW  
Washington, District of Columbia 20009-1719

cc:  
Delegate Eleanor Norton

**From:** lyn88@cheerful.com  
**To:** Commissioner Adelstein  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 7:16 PM  
**Subject:** Protect Children's Television!

FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

Dear FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein,

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The FCC should consider how further relaxation of media ownership rules would impact children's programming. Deregulation may reduce competition, increase commercialism and result in less original programming for children.

Before making any regulatory changes to existing media ownership rules, the FCC must consider how children will be affected.

Sincerely,

Linda Tran  
4779 Ashdale ST  
Santa Barbara, California 93110

cc:  
Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Senator Barbara Boxer  
Representative Lois Capps

**From:** AI54x@aol.com  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 7:16 PM  
**Subject:** Broadcast Ownership Protection

Dear Mr. Powell:

I urge you not to relax the broadcast ownership rules that protect American citizens from media monopolies. These proposed changes would pave for giant media conglomerates to gain near-total control of radio and television news and information in communities across our nation. And many of the corporations that are now lobbying the FCC to relax these ownership rules already have a known track record in attempting to keep opposing viewpoints off the air. The American people deserve to hear more than one point of view on important issues. Therefore, for the sake of our democracy and our freedom, I urge you to continue the broadcast ownership protections that, for decades, have helped to ensure a healthy political debate in our country. < If proposed broadcast ownership rules are adopted, independent voices in cities across the United States could be snuffed out by huge media corporations>..  
<whole communities and even whole states and regions could be dominated by one media company which could decide which viewpoints to allow on the air and which to censor>..  
<Many of the corporations that are fighting for these rules changes-including media giants Viacom/CBS and Disney/ABC- are precisely the same companies that have tried in the past to keep our viewpoints off the air>

Sincerely,

Alejandro Rojas  
New Jersey



**From:** Miriam Cleveland  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 7:17 PM  
**Subject:** Prevent centralization of media

Dear Commissioner Powell:

As the FCC considers new regulations regarding ownership of media in the United States, I urge you to make sure that you promote multiplicity of ownership, so that it is impossible for one or a few giant corporations to control the American media.

Commissioner Powell we are already at a crisis point in this regard. Five giants own 90% of the media, and this has resulted in biased reporting and poor news coverage. Independence of view and analysis has suffered.

The FCC must take steps to encourage independent reporting and analysis and freer access to government news sources. Don't allow the American media to become monotonous and biased!

Sincerely,

Miriam Cleveland  
7500 SE Bloomfield Road, Lot 68,  
Des Moines, Iowa, 50320

**From:** Andrew Abian  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 7:17 PM  
**Subject:** Prevent centralization of media

Dear Commissioner Powell:

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Sincerely,

Andrew M. Abian

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**From:** Darla Anelli  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 7:17 PM  
**Subject:** Prevent centralization of media

Dear Commissioner Powell:

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The FCC must take steps to encourage independent reporting and analysis and freer access to government news sources. Don't allow the American media to become monotonous and biased!

Sincerely,

Darla Anelli  
6096 santa ysabel way  
san jose, CA 95123-3943

**From:** James Goodfriend  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 7:17 PM  
**Subject:** FCC prevent media centralized control

Dear Commissioner Powell:

As the FCC considers new regulations regarding ownership of media in the United States, I urge you to make sure that you promote multiplicity of ownership, so that it is impossible for one or a few giant corporations to control the American media.

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Sincerely,

James R. Goodfriend  
735 W. Irving PK #3s  
Chicago, IL 60613

**From:** George Lloyd  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 7:17 PM  
**Subject:** Prevent centralization of media

Dear Commissioner Powell:

As the FCC considers new regulations regarding ownership of media in the United States, I urge you to make sure that you promote multiplicity of ownership, so that it is impossible for one or a few giant corporations to control the American media.

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The FCC must take steps to encourage independent reporting and analysis and freer access to government news sources. Don't allow the American media to become monotonous and biased!

Sincerely,

George Lloyd

**From:** William Thiele  
**To:** Commissioner Adelstein, KM KJMWEB, Michael Copps, Kathleen Abernathy, Mike Powell  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 7:24 PM  
**Subject:** Do Not Relax Broadcast Ownership Rules

Dear Chairman and Commissioners of the FCC

I urge you NOT to relax the broadcast ownership rules that protect American citizens from media monopolies.

These proposed changes would pave the way for giant media conglomerates to gain near-total control of radio and television news and information in communities across our nation. And many of the corporations that are now lobbying the FCC to relax these ownership rules already have a known track record in attempting to keep opposing viewpoints off the air.

The American people deserve to hear more than one point of view on important issues. Therefore, for the sake of our democracy and our freedom, I urge you to continue the broadcast ownership protections that, for decades, have helped to ensure a healthy political debate in our country.

Sincerely,

William J. Thiele

Bernardsville, NJ 07924-1707

**From:** M Smyser  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 12:02 AM  
**Subject:** FW: I oppose the proposed FCC rule changes to relax media-ownership restrictions

Dear Mr. Powell,

I am writing this message to let you know that I strongly oppose the FCC rule changes to further relax media ownership restrictions. These changes pose a great threat to our democracy by further allowing large media corporations to buy-up a larger marketshare. In fact, changes enacted in the 1990s should be repealed. Already, only a few large media giants dominate our airways and print media to an extent never seen before.

A democracy can only be healthy when it allows its many voices to be heard and this is not the case in our country right now. Please stop the new these new rule changes now! Please save our democracy!!!

Sincerely,

Michael Smyser  
6716 35th Ave NW  
Seattle, WA 98117  
(email: tcat03@foxinternet.net)

**CC:** Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein

**From:** archalex@msn.com  
**To:** Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 12:03 AM  
**Subject:** FCC Rules

I urge you not to relax the broadcast ownership rules that protect American citizens from media monopolies.

These proposed changes would pave the way for giant media conglomerates to gain near-total control of radio and television news and information in communities across our nation. Any many of the corporations that are now lobbying the FCC to relax these ownership rules already have a known track record in attempting to keep opposing viewpoints off the air.

The American people deserve to hear more than one point of view on important issues. Therefore, for the sake of our democracy and our freedom, I urge you to continue the broadcast ownership protections that, for decades, have helped to ensure a healthy political debate in our country.

Sincerely,

Mr. Archie R. Alexander  
Winston-Salem, NC 27106-9751



**From:** nobody@www.fcc.gov  
**To:** Commissioner Adelstein  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 12:16 AM  
**Subject:** <No Subject>

Chi () writes:

Please do NOT allow more consolidation of television and newspapers. As it stands now, there are nowhere near enough divergent viewpoints expressed. For our society to grow and prosper we need a variety of opinions available to the general public to stimulate ideas and discourse. This is what helps make America great. Thank you

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Server protocol: HTTP/1.1  
Remote host: 64.172.61.36  
Remote IP address: 64.172.61.36

**From:** SEAMCD43@aol.com  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 12:44 AM  
**Subject:** Media deregulation

Chairman Powell,  
I oppose the further deregulation of the media. It will only lead to more control of information and entertainment by a few. No more, please.  
Charles McDermott  
2276 Martinique Lane  
Oxnard, CA 93035

**From:** SEAMCD43@aol.com  
**To:** Kathleen Abernathy  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 12:45 AM  
**Subject:** Media deregulation

I oppose the further deregulation of the media. It will only lead to more control of information and entertainment by a few. No more, please.

Charles McDermott  
2276 Martinique Lane  
Oxnard, CA 93035

**From:** Bill Lavelle  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 1:07 AM  
**Subject:** on media ownership

May 1, 2003

Mr. Powell:

On or about June 2, 2003 you will vote on a proposal that would allow single-owner control of multiple media outlets in individual markets around the country. I wish to let you know that I am unequivocally opposed to that proposal.

A plethora of information, a diversity of ideas, and their widespread circulation among the citizenry are cornerstones of a real democracy. Increasing consolidation in the ownership of news and opinion sources is antithetical to full and open public discourse. How ironic at a time we send US soldiers to die to promote democracy in Iraq, we seem willing to let a nearly oligopolistic media determine the content and form of information that is made available to us. The airwaves are a national, not a proprietary resource, and the FCC is meant to represent the interests of all the American people. Democracy in America is drowning and you are in a position to throw it a life ring. Let your legacy be that you did that.

I request that you vote NOT to loosen FCC regulations to permit ownership of multiple forms of media in a single market. Moreover, I urge you to study and seek to rescind those elements of the Telecommunication Act of 1996 that are being shown increasingly to have narrowed the breadth of news and opinion broadcast in our country.

Sincerely,

J.W. Lavelle  
10025 39th Ave NE  
Seattle, WA 98125  
jwlavelle@w-link.net

**From:** PostDlpost@aol.com  
**To:** Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 1:47 AM  
**Subject:** No to Monopoly Media Control, No to Corporate Censorship

Dear Commissioners;

The airwaves belong to the people, not to any corporate entity. We have already lost so much freedom of speech. It's owned by large corporations. You must preserve our Bill of Rights, our freedom of speech and say no to large corporate mergers. Do your duty as a public entity. You represent the people, not large corporations.

Dianne Post, J.D.  
Phoenix, AZ

**From:** PostDlpost@aol.com  
**To:** Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 1:47 AM  
**Subject:** No to Monopoly Media Control, No to Corporate Censorship

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Dianne Post, J.D.  
Phoenix, AZ

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**To:** Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein  
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Dianne Post, J.D.  
Phoenix, AZ

**From:** Marion Young  
**To:** Kathleen Abernathy  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 2:53 AM  
**Subject:** Upcoming FCC vote on media deregulation

Dear Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy:

Re: Upcoming FCC vote on media deregulation.

Further consolidation of the media in the name of "deregulation" must be halted. The media companies have failed in their public trust to provide unbiased information about most crucial issues, most notably the recent coverage of the war in Iraq.

As an American concerned about our democracy, I call on you to challenge the media conglomerates, to open the broadcast spectrum to a

diverse range of journalists and opinions, and to reinstate the Fairness Doctrine. Oppose media deregulation.

Ms. Marion Young  
6600 Telephone Rd #708  
Ventura, CA 93003



**From:** Jonathan R. Davey  
**To:** Commissioner Adelstein  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 4:17 AM  
**Subject:** Comments to the Commissioner

Jonathan R. Davey (jokay9@cox.net) writes:

Protect free speech. Break up media monopolies, don't expand them.

Media Monopolies Have Muzzled Dissent

By Ian Masters

Ian Masters is the host of "Background Briefing" on KPFK-FM (90.7) in Los Angeles.

May 1, 2003

If information is the oxygen of democracy, the United States has just been gassed, not by weapons of mass destruction but by a weapon of mass distraction.

With George W. Bush basking in glorious ratings and Fox News climbing in the ratings, we may be moving toward a coronation instead of a reelection in 2004. It was, after all, Rupert Murdoch's unilateral anointment of Bush as the winner in the early hours of the morning after the undecided 2000 election that led Al Gore to foolishly concede, because he and the other networks believed what they saw on Fox Television.

Now the marriage between a government and its volunteer information ministry has been consecrated by the blessed victory of "Operation Iraqi Freedom," the geopolitical equivalent of an O.J. meets "Joe Millionaire" wrapped in the flag.

Totalitarian regimes don't tolerate any distinction between journalism and propaganda, but in most democracies it is unprecedented for the free press to abandon Joseph Pulitzer for the methods of Joseph Goebbels.

How did a born-again, family-values administration get in bed with a purveyor of misogyny and mayhem, trash and titillation? The common thread, for all the public piety, has to be the late Lee Atwater, who was friend, mentor and role model to George W., Karl Rove and Roger Ailes, the head hound in the Fox pound of junkyard attack-dog journalism.

This undemocratic confluence of politics and propaganda has long been in the making as corporate media have been incrementally empowered while public influence, input and "interest" have been eliminated.

The transformation of active citizens into passive consumers was enabled by the Federal Communications Commission under Ronald Reagan's Mark Fowler, who declared "the perception of broadcasters as community trustees should be replaced by a view of broadcasters as marketplace participants."

Welcome to America, Mr. Murdoch: You can buy the airwaves and, who knows, some day the presidency.

TV's Fox could not get away with its shameless shilling for the White House if the Fairness Doctrine were still in place, and radio's Clear Channel monopoly would not be able to impose wall-to-wall Limbaugh, Hannity and Savage, etc., on the public if broadcasters were accountable to public opinion rather than the dictates of plutocrats.

How could it be that in the land of the free and the home of the brave Americans are afraid of opinions? Where are the Tom Paines, the Mark Twains, the Menckens, the Ida Tarbells?

Dissent has not gone away; it has just been marginalized by monopolies and relegated to the interstices of the Internet.

But the hammer is about to drop on the Internet too. The head of the FCC, Michael Powell, wants to give away what's left of the store to the broadband cable and satellite providers and make them gatekeepers or tollbooths on the information highway.

It used to be that the Internet was accessed via a common carrier, the phone company, but as technology has moved forward, these new unregulated media monopolies have increasing control over the information pipeline. Without regulation, they have the ability to choose what content they provide.

Two FCC commissioners want to delay this hand-over and encourage public debate, but the public is largely unaware of what is at stake.

Obviously you can't expect the Limbaughs, O'Reillys and their bosses or their president in the White House to give them talking points on preserving diversity of opinion while there is a tax cut to sell.

So speak up, America: It's your country, they're your airwaves. Maybe you can pursue the American dream while you are asleep, but it will be too late to reclaim your country's freedom when you wake up.

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Remote IP address: 68.14.139.44